

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 5, 2004 (Paper No. 6). Claim 1 to 17, 19 to 43, 44 to 69, 71 to 95, and 97 to 104 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 26, 27, 52, 53, 78, 79 and 104 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,560,644 (Lautmann) in view of U.S. Patent 6,052,724 (Willie). In response, the substance of now-cancelled Claims 18, 44, 70 and 96 has been incorporated into independent Claims 1, 27, 53 and 79, respectively. Independent Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104 already contain recitations similar to those in the now-cancelled claims, and no changes have been made to Claims 26, 52, 78 or 104. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejection of Claims 18, 26, 44, 52, 70, 78, 96 and 104.

The invention concerns management of a plurality of network devices on a network, particularly in situations where there are network devices that communicate using a first communication protocol and it is desired to integrate such devices into a directory server. According to the invention, the presence of at least one of the plurality of network devices is detected by using the first communication protocol, and information is obtained by using the first communication protocol from the detected network device. The information is formatted into a directory entry and the directory entry is sent to a directory server by using a second communication protocol.

According to further aspects of the invention, messages from the directory server are monitored for issuance of an update message indicating that an directory entry has been updated. In the case that an update message is issued, the updated directory entry is obtained from the directory server by using the second communication protocol, and the updated data is extracted. Thereupon, the updated data is sent to the network device for placement into the information of the corresponding network device.

By virtue of the foregoing, it is possible to integrate network devices that communicate by a first communication protocol into network management by a directory server.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement, particularly as regards monitoring for issuance of an update message from a directory server indicating that a directory entry has been updated, obtaining in a case where the update message is issued the updated directory entry by using a second communication protocol that differs from a first communication protocol, extracting updated data therefrom, and sending the updated data to a network device for placement into its corresponding information.

Lautmann, for example, is not seen to disclose or to suggest any of the foregoing features. Indeed, the Office Action specifically concedes that Lautmann is silent concerning formatting of information into a directory entry and sending the directory entry to a directory server. As a consequence, Lautmann could not possibly disclose or suggest anything pertinent to the directory server's response to sending of a directory entry, such as

the claimed monitoring, obtaining, extracting and sending processes described in each of the independent claims.

It was said that Willie provides technological details missing from Lautmann, with respect to formatting and sending of directory entries. Applicants respectfully disagree, and do not concede the correctness of this characterization of Willie. Moreover, even if Willie is taken for what is ascribed to it, it certainly does not disclose or suggest any responsive processes of the directory server in response to sending of a directory entry. In particular, Willie says nothing concerning the monitoring, obtaining, extracting and sending processes that characterize the independent claims herein.

Since the language of the amended independent claims is based on that found in now-cancelled Claims 18, 44, 70 and 96, and since similar language is reflected in original independent Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104 (which have not been amended), Applicants have studied the Office Action's rejection of those claims in particular. Little is said. For example, with respect to the rejection of Claims 18, 44, 70 and 96, the Office Action took the position that "they include features or limitations as in Claim 7".^{1/} Of course, this assertion is completely inaccurate, since the features of now-cancelled Claims 18, 44, 70 and 96 are different from those of Claim 7. The rejections are therefore traversed not only for the technological grounds described above, but also on the ground

^{1/}The full rejection of these claims reads as follows: "With regard to Claims 15 to 21, 41 to 47, 67 to 73 and 93 to 99, they include features or limitations as in Claim 7. Thus, Claims 15 to 212, 41 to 47, 67 to 73 and 93 to 99 are also rejected under the same rational [sic, rationale] as cited in the rejection of Claim 7 (see Claim 7 rejection as detailed above)."

that the Office Action failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the rejected (and now-cancelled) claims.

As for Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104 (which have not been amended), the Office Action took the position that they include "features or limitations as in Claim 21". Again, this assertion is completely untrue in that the features of Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104 are completely different from those of still pending Claim 21. Again, therefore, the rejection of Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104 is traversed not only for the technological reasons given above, but also for the reason that the Office Action failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to Claims 26, 52, 78 and 104.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims herein recite subject matter that would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of Lautmann and Willie, and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Scinto", written over a horizontal line.

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